

SPONSOR: Kendrick

This bill modifies laws concerning ethics. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Imposes a ban on any lobbyist gift given to an elected official or his or her specified staff, spouse, or dependent children. It also prohibits lobbyist donations to candidate committees formed by statewide elected officials and members of the General Assembly for food, lodging, travel, and entertainment purposes;
- (2) Lengthens the waiting period for registration as a lobbyist after serving in the legislature, statewide office, or in positions appointed by the Governor and subject to Senate approval, from six months to five years;
- (3) Prohibits the expenditure of funds from a candidate committee to any person who is related to the candidate within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity and also prohibits expenditures made to entities that are wholly or partially owned by such relatives of a candidate;
- (4) Requires individuals who have held office as legislators or statewide officers to dissolve their candidate committees, using the procedures under Section 105.465, RSMo, if they do not file to run for another legislative or statewide office within four years of the end of their term in office for former statewide officers and Senators, or within two years of the end of their term in office for former members of the House of Representatives;
- (5) Grants the ethics commission power to prosecute both civil and criminal matters falling under their existing jurisdiction if the Office of the Attorney General declines to prosecute based on the recommendation of the commission. If the commission chooses to prosecute the matter, then it has the same powers and duties as the Office of the Attorney General; and
- (6) Imposes a ban on campaign contributions to current members of the legislature or statewide officers or candidates for these offices during the legislative session. An exception for candidates involving special elections is made.